Interview with Gabriel Ruiz
Conducted by Dr. James L. Dodson
and Miss Lilly Ferretti - January 25, 1978

TAPE 1 - SIDE 1 & 2

DODSON: Now, could you tell us where you were born and give us your full name for the tape.

RUIZ: My full name is Gabriel Ulofius Ruiz. The middle name was given to me as a Baptismal name because my parents at that time had not made any decision over the name. So old Father John, who was the Pastor of the Santa Clara Church in Oxnard at the time gave me that name himself. Because he said, "Well, let's look up the boy's birthdate." And March 11th was St. ?Ulocius Day. Now ?Ulocius in Latin means someone who has a tendency to eulogize. I use to be called speak easy. That's the meaning of Ulocius. I was born March 11, 1902 in Ventura County of Spanish American parentage in a little village that at one time was known as Springville. It's no longer there. The reason it was there was because there was a post office there. We have old letters that were addressed to Springville, California. But there is another Springville up in the northern part of the state. So they finally moved the post office from Springville, which was just a little village and there was a little private home there owned by some

people by the name of Peterson. And Mrs. Peterson had this little post office, had a little store, notions and a few groceries and odds and ends of this kind or another. And her husband was a very fine blacksmith. He owned the blacksmith shop there. And they would shoe horses or sharpen plow shears or bean cutting knives, shears or anything that there was to be done in the blacksmith line. But when they moved the post office from Springville to the town of Camrillo, Springville more or less faded out of the picture. And so nowadays, I mean you could drive right through there and you'd never know there ever was a little there. It's about 3-1/2 or 4 miles west of Camrillo on Ventura Hwy. or the freeway. It would be about 1/2 or 3/4 of a mile, this side of where there's a fork in the road. I noticed a sign there that says Central Avenue. And it jumps off to the right in about a 60 degree or no about a 30 degree angle. And then of course Ventura Blvd. goes on to ? But where I was born was known as the ranch of Santa Clara del Norte. Which, at one time, belonged to the Salari family and Mrs. Salari was the pouta of Santa Barbara. She was related to my father.

DODSON: Is that right?

RUIZ: And this big attractive land was where my father's farm is and I was born. Then I attended, what we now know as elementary school. In those days it was only grammar but it was about three miles from our house. The Del Norte Grammar School. I've got pictures of it here if you'd care to see them. And I, outside of one year, I got all of my grammar school education there and all eight grades and graduated from Del Norte Grammar School. And that was in 1915. Then I went to Oxnard High School up until my junior year. Well, I went to St. Joseph's Institute first, my first two years of high school was at St. Jo's in Oxnard. Then I went to Oxnard High School in my junior year, started my senior year and World War I came along. And I quit school and went to work on the ranch because we had a shortage of ranch hands at that time. They drafted several of the boys that worked for my father into the army at that time. And several of them came back and went back to work for my father after they came back. There was one very interesting thing...there was a Belgian boy by the name of Phil Rys is the way he spelled his name. And he had come to this country from Belgium and had become an American citizen so naturally he was drafted for service in the war. He went across in the machine gun company. And he had five brothers in Belgium that went all through that war. And before

he left to come back to the United States after the war was over, they had a big reunion and all five of his brothers lived through that war.

DODSON: That's an amazing thing.

RUIZ: Rather unusual thing. For all five of them to survive. They were first in the Belgium army and then of course, when Belgium succumbed to the German advance, they joined the French army. And served in France.

DODSON: Well, that's unbelievable. Because anyone who served four years in that particular war, never came out of it.

RUIZ: That's right. That's really amazing. Well, we have some of the same things that happened in this country during World War II. I know a boy up in Utah, was in it and all the whole thing from beginning to end. Served in the whole World War II.

DODSON: Of course our medical services in World War II were much better. If a person were wounded in World War II he had a fairly good chance of surviving. In World War I he didn't have anything like it, there was no chance.

RUIZ: That's right. And I happened to know a doctor. Dr. Decker, here in Los Angeles, who was one of the army physicians that served in World War I. And he told us quite a few stories of things that happened over there and how they improvised things in the field and how they worked day and night under adverse conditions and trying to save the boys that were wounded. Some of them, they were successful and many of them they weren't. So, of course, that's the way that war works out.

DODSON: Now you mentioned your father, Mr. Ruiz. Can you tell us what his connection with California would have been.

RUIZ: Well, his is the same connection you might say as mine. Because his name was Othano Thoilos? and he was the son of Gabriello, my grandfather. His mother was Raphael LaCoursea of Santa Barbara. And then his grandfather was Jose Pedros Ruiz. His grandmother was Maria Nicalobo? And then of course his great grandfather was ? Ruiz. His great grandmother was Maria Lobo de Ruiz that came into California in Rivera Expedition in 1781. So the family has been here on the Ruiz side since 1781 and on the Lobo side since 1769. So the name of Ruiz goes back that far. However, when I went to the archives in Spain to

research the old Spanish family names, I found that there were 26 Ruiz' from different parts of Spain that came into the new world with the Spanish Conquest.

DODSON: Is that right? Then that would go back to the 16th Century.

RUIZ: Yeah, right.

DODSON: Did you feel that your ancestors had come had come that early in the 16th?

RUIZ: We feel that they did. Because in the records there it shows that some of the Ruiz' went to South America with Desaro and others remain in Mexico with Cortez. And I not only went to the archives in Sorea but I also went to the library in Somoncus? and they have quite a library of the old names there too. And I found, as I have these records, where there was a...I'm trying to think of the given name...but he was a Ruiz who served...who was quite a distinguished service man, in the government of Spain and in the war involving the Conquest of Mexico. And in as much as there was so many of them that came at that particular time, as far as we know there is records of them ever having gone back this way. So it's more

or less an assumption that we are a descendant of someone of those 26 that first came over here.

FERRETTI: I know there was (INAUDIBLE)

RUIZ: I speak of the Camarillo. Juan Camarillo, who was the son of John Camarillo that bought the Cayous? ranch from my grandfather went to South America and lived in Cuenevarco? for quite some time. And he sent me a photograph of Alfonso Ruiz. And in the letter they said, he wrote it in Spanish, he says, "(SPANISH)" which means that certainly this fellow must be a relative of yours. So you see the name has carried on. Of course, if they have any sons, in Portugal. I have no sons so I'm the last of my line.

DODSON: So there's a chance that your relatives were both with Desaro in South America and Cortez too.

RUIZ: Well I will say with Cortez in Mexico rather than Desaro because we don't know whether any of them came back through Mexico or not after that conquest of the Incas and Peru and then they went on down into Chile and spread all over. ?

DODSON: At what point then did your relatives move into what is now the United States?

RUIZ: Well on my father's side of the family I would say, 1781. On the Ruiz side of the family. Ruiz was 1769 into Alto California, which is now the United States of America. Right from the very beginning of the Mission system when it was established in Alto California. It's an interesting thing that on my mother's side of the family, her name was Nuevos, which is actually Holland Dutch. And she was a descentive of the Nuevos that was in New Amsterdam before it was New York City under the Dutch rule. So I come from both sides of the, out of the continent.

DODSON: Yes, that's seems like an odd combination.

RUIZ: ? Kipling was wrong, he ? It so happens that when the English took New Amsterdam away from the Dutch the Nuevos family moved to Pennsylvania in the City of Philadelphia. And I think they were involved more in professionalism such as doctors and dentists and that sort of thing. Because my grandfather, John Nuevos, my mother's father was a dentist by profession. But when they moved to Philadelphia originally they scattered from there all over the United States. Now again, my mother told me, she's been gone for quite a few years, that one of the brothers went to South America. And he became a very wealthy millionaire and we've lost track of that

branch of the family completely. We may be able to go to the record. They say there is always a way to do it. But the Nuevos moved into mainly in the state of Indiana. They were in Gary and South Bend and there was another town there that's rather prominent. One of the girls almost married one of the Studebaker boys that was famous for the Conestoga wagons of the pioneer days and also the automobiles. But she didn't, she married a fellow by the name of Clinton Dodge and I knew him. ? And lived up in Oakland. But my mother was born in Fiola, Kansas. That's where my grandfather, John Ruiz, had his dentist profession. And then he lost his health and they came out to California in 1838. So my people, from both sides of the family, were in the United States before it was the United States.

DODSON: I see, you really go back. Well, mine haven't been here quite that long. They came in the 18th Century from England and settled in the east and then gradually they moved west tell they got to California.

RUIZ: Well, I know my mother always said that she'd never go back to Kansas because she use to tell us about the terrific tornados and hurricanes that they use to have back there. And the thunder and lightning

storms, she says, "You think this is thunder and lightning, you should of heard it back there."

DODSON: She was willing to take her chances on earthquakes instead was she.

RUIZ: Oh yeah.

DODSON: Do you know there are only two states in the union that have no known faults and Kansas is one of them and Nebraska is the other one. Your telling us what they get in Kansas in place of the earthquakes.

RUIZ: Yeah, there's always what they call compensation. That's where we emanate from. She was here in the North American continent before the United States became the United States ? from both sides.

DODSON: You were born in what's now Ventura County. When did you move into the San Fernando area?

RUIZ: Well, we moved into the valley to live permanently in 1920. But my dad bought a piece of land in the San Fernando Valley. Do you happen to know where White Oak and Sherman Way and Saticoy? We owned the 80 acres that was half of 160 fronted on Sherman Way and then it ran up White Oak Avenue to Saticoy and down

back to the corner. 80 acres in there. 20 acres was in peaches and the rest of it was open...we farmed in with various...beans. Well, my father was basically a bean father. And he had started his farming career in Ventura county on this old ranch of Santa Clara del Norte. And somehow or another he knew how to work land to preserve the moisture because up there in those days, it was all dry farming. There was very very little irrigation. So we depended on the weather. And I can remember an interesting story. When I was a little boy I was crying because I couldn't get outside and play with my toys because it was raining and raining hard. We use to have some good ones up there. And my dad says, "Son, I want to tell you something. This rain is god's gift to us for Christmas. Without this rain you and I might not have a Christmas." And I have never forgotten that as long as I've lived.

DODSON: He put it very well.

RUIZ: How precious...I mean the rain is that we have. A lot of people say, "Oh, it's raining. I don't like it." They don't realize what rain does. It washes out the atmosphere for one thing and it refreshes the soil so that our crops will grow. We wouldn't have the wild flowers without it. We wouldn't have our

trees. And many things which we call our blessings, if it wasn't for the rain. And yet, I mean there's people that will criticize it. I love it. I love to see it rain.

DODSON: Well it certainly is important in our valley. There is no question about it.

RUIZ: Well you see that was one of the reasons why we came to the valley. My dad bought this land there because the water had been brought in and the valley had been piped so that every farm had irrigation to some of it.

DODSON: Well now did you tell us that you were present in 1913 when the water came over the cascades for the first time?

RUIZ: Yeah, I was up there.

DODSON: So you and your family had made the trip down.

RUIZ: Yeah, we made another trip but I got the dates mixed up. In 1911 when the valley was first being subdivided. You see at one time...there's another name for it...but I remember it as the Los Angeles Brain and Milling Company.

DODSON: That was the Lankershim Interest then.

RUIZ: I don't...I think that Lankershim had someone else in with him at that time. Because as I remember it, it was a sort of a corporation or a company. And they had several big ranch houses up there. I know where most of them are.

DODSON: I think they had six working ranches, didn't they? In a good part of the south end of the valley.

RUIZ: Yeah, that's right. And practically everything in those days was all mules and horses. They did have steam tractors that pulled a big combine harvester. But I can also remember when they pulled those combine harvesters with teams. They had 30-40 horses a mule. The big combine harvester and all the machinery was energized by a bull wheel. A great big bull wheel in the center of the whole thing and that's what turned the separator the crush the grain. And I recall this, that when we use to come to Los Angeles on the train from Oxnard. We'd get up really early in the morning and catch what we call the early morning train, which left Oxnard at 6:00. The next train was about an hour and a half later. And if you missed that one that got you a good three hours to come to Los Angeles from Oxnard.

DODSON: My goodness.

RUIZ: And it was down through the tracks that still run through the valley.

DODSON: What was the reason for what to us sounds like such slow speed?

RUIZ: Well the trains didn't travel too fast in those days, you had a lot of stops. They stopped in Oxnard. They stopped in Camarillo. They would a flag stop in Sylmas. They stopped in Moorpark. They stopped in Santa Susanna. It took quite a bit to go over the grade and they stopped at Chatsworth and then they went on and they stopped in Burbank and in Glendale and on down to what we use to call the river station and down to the old arcade station which was at the end of 5th Street on Alameda. And it took three hours to make that trip.

DODSON: I can see how it would be that long.

RUIZ: Well the idea of leaving Oxnard so early in the morning was to get through San Fernando Valley before the heat of the day set in. Because in those days and with that barley and wheat stubble in there which drew a hell of a heat...you could hardly breath.

DODSON: Is that right?

RUIZ: I remember one time that we missed the train and there was another train which ran from Ventura through Saticoy up to the Santa Clara Valley through Santa Paula and Fillmore and up around that way. It came in by way of Newhall and down through San Fernando. That was the other track. And by the time we got to San Fernando Valley, it was so hot, we could hardly breath.

RUIZ: Is that right?

RUIZ: It was just that time. We missed the ? so there was another train an hour or hour and a half later leaving Saticoy. So we drove from Oxnard to Saticoy to pick up the train there to go south. I think it was on the occasion of the death of my grandfather. And my grandfather, John Nuevos and his wife moved and the most of that family are all buried in the Rose Hills Cemetery out here on Washington Blvd. ? And I think that was the occasion. But I can remember our always leaving Oxnard on the early morning train to get to Los Angeles before the heat set in in the San Fernando Valley.

DODSON: Now that's interesting. No one else has told us about that.

RUIZ: That was wonderful...a huge grain field. Then of course there was a porter who stayed up there in the old Encino ranch which at one time belonged to the Delosis? and then finally ended up the hands of the Amestoy's. And Sy Amestoy is still alive.

DODSON: Yes, we met him.

RUIZ: You did? He gave quite a talk at the ? Adobe and he and I got together and we were reminisced about a lot of things that a lot of these other people hadn't the slightest conception of what we were talking about.

DODSON: I can imagine.

RUIZ: Of course, we knew a lot of these people and had been in the valley farming since 1916. Our old ranch house was on the corner of Lindley Avenue and Sherman Way. That was a 66 acre track in there that we say 66, actually there was 70 acres because all of the valley you see was cut up into quarter sections. And half a mile between street, south streets, most of then run practically due north and south and east and west. Now there's a few variations on that.

Lankershim Blvd. cuts across at an angle. You'll get some...and then Laurel Canyon runs north and then heads out north west, by west. Anyhow, with a few exceptions, why the streets are run north, south, east and west. That is the way it's laid out. And then of course there was these irrigation lines and they had been metered to where we could grow water for irrigation but the old ranch house was right there on the corner of Lindley Avenue and Sherman Way.

DODSON: Now what was the fate of the ranch? Who did you sell it to? How did it come to be subdivided?

RUIZ: Well the whole valley was subdivided by two or three corporations. There was Janson Investment Company was one, Suburban Foothill Estates was another. And I forget who we bought our property from. I know there was a fellow by the name H.J. Whitley that was involved. A fellow by the name of Jim Johnson and Hugo Carlson. Hugo Carlson lived out in what is now Canoga Park. It was known as Owensmouth at that time. He was living right there on Shoup Avenue, right ? We knew his family very very well. And W.T. Whitsett was with the Department of Water and Power. But Whitley I think owned a particular...that is, that was his particular area when we bought the first

piece of property on Sherman Way and White Oak. That was our land at first. Then we had this other 70 acre piece, which was on the corner of Lindley Avenue and Sherman Way which belonged to people by the name of Pope. And we bought that property from Pope. Then dad farm...let's see, we farmed pretty close to 400 acres in the valley at one time. But they were all in different locations. And here's another interesting thing. This thought just came to me. We farmed a 120 acre piece of property one time that belonged to a Portuguese friend of ours from Ventura, Antone Bastise. He was Portuguese by descent. An old friend of my father's. We all belonged to the same group of people up there. And this particular house, we call it a Tony. Tony built it himself, that is, had it built. And on the rough there was a solar heating system.

DODSON: So it goes back that far?

RUIZ: Yes, it goes back that far. It was nothing more than a box about 12 feet long and about 5 feet wide. It was a whole series of 3/4" pipes in it and it had tin on the bottom, shining tin which would reflect the sunlight and it was covered with a glass cover. And there was never a time, even in the winter, that we were without hot water in that house. And it was

nothing but a very very simple installation. All that he had in it was a check valve to keep the water from running back into the cold water system. But in those days we had no gas. He didn't even have electric lights. He had kerosene lamps in the house. The electric company had not put their lines down there that far yet. This was done on Louise Avenue...no, it was on White Oak Avenue between White Oak and Louise, south of what is now Victory Blvd. It was in that area. Right it bordered on the Los Angeles tributary there. That was the southern boundary of his property. Then I lived in that house for over a year. The folks were up on Lindley Avenue and I use to go down there and I stayed there because in here was a great big house, nobody in it. We had a cook down there to share in the cooking. Because I was working the land with the tractors. But this was the one thing that I remember about that. And nowadays they're talking about solar heat and solar energy. For heaven sakes, we had it out in the valley years ago.

DODSON: And there also telling us that it is extremely expensive to install it.

RUIZ: It isn't. And I'll tell you why it isn't. I was only in the plumbing business for ten years myself

and put 13 years in as a plumbing inspector with the City of Los Angeles before I retired. I've got about 27 years of experience at the plumbing trade.

DODSON: So you know about it.

RUIZ: And I tell you it is not expensive to install it. You can do it yourself.

DODSON: Well, I've never been able to understand how it could be expensive because it seems like a very simple idea.

RUIZ: It is. It's the simplest idea in the world. But you see what your doing, ? But their doing it. That's the secret of the whole thing. It's the cheapest line of energy there is. There's another line of energy which has been experimented with up at Stanford University. It's taken right out of the soil. You can either your heating or your refrigeration. The original installation is very expensive. But it's a life time job. So written off over a period of years. It's the most economical thing that you get. And these people know it. But they won't do it. Commercially unsound.

DODSON: I suppose it would be, yes.

RUIZ: Did you ever know that they actually discovered how to make synthetic gold?

DODSON: No, I thought that was impossible. I thought...

RUIZ: It was done by two German scientists during World War I. They were experimenting with very high heat furnaces and they had been playing around with some metals in this furnace and they found a residue after one of their experiments...that they didn't know what it was and they ended up playing around with it and they treated it with different things and they found out that it was a metal powder. And probably finally were able to get it all together and it went through the displacement series test, which is a chemical test. They put it through it and it came out that it was gold. It survived, let us say. It survived all of the chemical tests that were known at that time. But it costs so much to produce that it was economically unsound.

DODSON: It is my understanding that at the present time we can produce gold with what is called a half light. Meaning it wouldn't retain its characteristics or anything but a very short period.

RUIZ: Well maybe this is somewhat the same thing, but they did find, what we call gold, that answered all of the questions up to that time. It survived all the tests.

DODSON: At what point did your father sell his land for subdivision?

RUIZ: Well, let's see...

DODSON: Now I asking you, Mr. Ruiz, when the land passed into the hands of subdividers?

RUIZ: Well I'm not exactly sure. But I believe it was the first sale happened just before the depression hit. Some time along 1928. You see I worked on the ranch with my dad up until 1927. Then I decided to finish my education and go to college. And then I went to Loyola University here, which of course is Catholic college. And I took up the study of Philosophy Preparatory for Law. And I went to school at that time and I'm not quite sure just what it was but I think it was around 1928 that they started to make a deal with my father for the 80 acre piece on Sherman Way and White Oak. Well unfortunately the company that bought the land went broke on account of the Depression.

DODSON: That's what I wondered when you told me this before.

RUIZ: And they couldn't pay off. And they worked some kind of a deal. Now my father was a great producer in farm products but he was not a good business man unfortunately. And somehow or another they got him into some kind of a deal where he had to either buy the place back or lose it. And he couldn't buy it back so he let it go. This is the unfortunate thing. We did get...the best that we got out of it was a fairly substantial down payment but that's all we did get out of it. Of course, another unfortunate thing happened. In 1923...it was on April Fool's morning that we had what we called a "black frost" in the valley. And it killed off or damaged the orchards and farm land so badly, the orchards never recovered from it and it was a sight to see some of the tomato fields out there in the valley. One side of the vine would be perfectly good. The other side was as black as his hat.

DODSON: Is that right.

RUIZ: It was a strip of about 3 miles wide and it ran sort of at an angle across the valley nearly from Canoga Park to east of Van Nuys. We called it a "black frost". It froze the sap on the trees. Well what

happened was that we had a very warm spring and of course, the latter part of February and March was very warm. And it brought the sap up in the trees and here were the trees all in blossom and this black frost hit. Well, the leaves never came out on the trees at all. The little pieces that were on there, they got about as big around as the size of my little finger and then they dropped off and that was the end of it. Prior to that time, it had been a beautiful orchard. We had 20 acres of tustin? cling peaches. And the following World War I and all the fruit was so high, we made very good money off of that orchard. But after 1923 and that black frost hit, the orchards never recovered from it. And people who had apricots or peach orchards out there just hired big 75 hole caterpillar tractors to come in and jerk the trees out. They just pulled out orchard after orchard after orchard. Now up around what was known as Zelzah. It's known as Northridge now. A fellow by the name of Alex Jeffries had quite an attractive land up in there on the north side of the railroad tracks. And he had orange trees and walnuts in there. And there was another tragedy. He had borrowed quite heavily in the banks to develop this land and it seems as though that they waited for just to come into production and because he owed quite a lot of money they had to foreclose on it. And he

lost that ranch. How he didn't lose his mind over it, I'll never know.

(OVERLAPPING)

DODSON: And they wouldn't wait till he got his harvest in and could sell it?

RUIZ: No, they foreclosed him. ? This is what happened to Alex Jeffries. ? Well then of course, the Depression came along and I had to give up my schooling. I did get my Junior College because of it, majored in philosophy, Jesuit Philosophy incidentally. And I dabbled around in different things. They wasn't enough to keep both of us on the ranch at that time. My father, the mechanic and all it, who ran the ? machine. And they never knew what it was to ? what I have here. I was a mechanic. But the funny part of it was, that during the Depression when I went out and tried to get a job as a mechanic, I couldn't get a job because I had never worked for anybody else but my father. At least that was the excuse they gave me. So I...

DODSON: I suppose they could be pretty picky and choosing that Depression.

RUIZ: Oh yeah during that time. Because it was during that time too and even up until the 1940s, prior to World

War I...you could hire the best carpenters and cabinet makers for a $1.00 an hour and they'd furnish their tools. I saw that happen right in the valley. During that time I did get a job up on the Sunshine Ranch. I was foreman of that ranch for awhile and they changed her place up there and then I went to work for a fellow by the name of Walter Wells who developed that property up there in back of Granada Hills. And that shut down because...I don't know...this man he was very strange. Here was a man that was involved in the oil industry. He had invented what they call the perforating gun. That could be lowered into the casing and by using army ammunition, 30 odd 6 cartridges they could perforate the pipe from the inside, fire them by electricity and bring in different levels all in the same casing. And he made a fortune out of it. He bought this property up there in back of the Sunshine Ranch. And I was up there with him for over eight months. Carpentry. Then all of a sudden he came in one day and he said, "Well fellow, I figured that I had two years work for you, but I'm going to have to close the place down." I only wondered why. Well, the during the time that I was foreman of the Sunshine Ranch, I had improved the road coming up Sunshine Canyon which runs off of San Fernando back up in there so that the Associated Oil Company could back

up in there with their tools to do their drilling. Well, it seems as though in what Wells told us that morning, somehow or another he had failed to check in to the oil mineral rights of his property.

DODSON: And he had no rights for it.

RUIZ: And he hadn't and Associated Oil could move in and drill on his property any time they wanted. He said, "I'm sorry but I got to close us down, this project down, until I find out where I actually stand." They were going to build a 32 room house up there, a regular mansion. We had already built a small house...let's see it was a little 5 room house. We had already built the superintendent's house which was a 9 room house. We had built a blacksmith's shop, a greenhouse and several other little buildings. I put in miles of fence line because he was going to raise... Oh yes, this was another thing, he was going to raise race horses and we had built a follying shed and fences for the mares and all that. And then all of a sudden that project was over. Then I got into the motion picture industry and I worked there for eight years with 20th Century Fox. I was at Fox, while I was at several other studios at the end of it. But many my home lot was 20th Century Fox. Essentially, it was ? Why they had Fox Hills

out here which is now Century City. That's where the old studio was. And I worked on that lot quite a bit.

DODSON: Did they do any filming in the valley itself? Do you remember?

RUIZ: Well let's see, various properties went all over everywhere. Of course, the Republic Studio is one of that's out there in what they call Studio City, that's all Republic. I just read in the paper about Roy Rogers has had open heart surgery. That's where Roy Rogers had his site. And the boys that he worked with were boys that I played ? with in Van Nuys. The Par Brothers. They use to live on Delano Street right there in Van Nuys. We had a dance orchestra and I played saxophone for them.

DODSON: Now you've really tried your hand at a lot of different things.

RUIZ: Well I love the music and I was always ? We played several different instruments and also pop music. And when my folks took us every place that they went. To the bar-be-ques and dances and everything else. And how everybody was dancing. I was over by the officer. And he said, "You look great." This is

where I committed. I don't play music. I had committed all of these knowledges to memory.

DODSON: Then you play by ear then?

RUIZ: Yes, I have an ear for it.

DODSON: I've often wondered how a person could do that. It must require an acute sense of tone.

RUIZ: I started writing them down one time. I may still have the list in my little desk there in the back room. There were over 350 numbers that I had the saxophone parts, 1st, 2nd and 3rd saxophone and all of the words committed to memory of all these things. ? They play one, play ? it was a three hour dance. They still want to sing. Well they say, "You don't sing much any more." The old vocal chords get dried up after awhile.

DODSON: How was your father affected by the Depression?

RUIZ: Well, it hit him quite badly because, do to the fact that he had lost his property, although in the meantime we had bought the place there, he was able to borrow enough money to keep himself going. And he farmed and raised baby lima beans up until he retired. And he retired at his...let's see, dad was

85 when he passed on. He retired at about around 78/79 years old before he retired. He quit active farming. But he was always a good producer. And that was one of the things about dad I mentioned the fact that he knew how to work the soil to conserve energy. That's one of the reasons why he became one of the business bean producers in Ventura County Record. His record still stands in bean production in Ventura County. Of course Wells was a big lima bean, not the baby one but the big one. And this was sponsored by Ashley Levy of the Bank of A. Levy up in Ventura County. He was my father's sponsor.

DODSON: Is that right?

RUIZ: I knew the old gentlemen very well myself.

DODSON: I've heard some stories about him that he was pretty generous in carrying people when they got into trouble financially and that sort of thing.

RUIZ: That's right. But you know, it's a funny thing that he must have been a tremendous psychologist because he would pick and choose people that he would loan money to. Now you never went into his bank for assistance of some kind, but that you didn't get assistance of some kind, whether it was financial or just advice. Oh, he might give you the dickens but

you never left his bank without something. He was a great breeder of human nature and a tremendous banker. He laid down the principals of banking with the Bank of A. Levy which still exists in that bank system right today. And his grandson is now the President of the American Banking Association.

DODSON: Is that right?

RUIZ: A.A. Mulligan. I knew his father. I never this boy, this man, but I knew his father. His father was married to A. Levy's daughter and the bank has been handed down to generation and generation. A. Levy died in 1923, his son Joe took over. And when Joe passed on then one of them took over.

DODSON: Well, one of the people that I interviewed, a Mr. C? told me a very nice story about A. Levy. His father had come over from Italy. He got a little farm in Ventura County, the crops failed so he didn't have a thing. He decided he just had to abandon it and move into Los Angeles. But Choco told that a buggy drove up into the yard and it was A. Levy. And Levy said to his father, "I understand you're about to leave us." And his father said, "Yes, I have nothing now. The crops have failed." Levy said, "That's alright. You just go ahead and buy what you need at the store.

And I'll stand good for it. And then you can pay me back next year." "Well," his father said, "Next year the crops may fail too and I can't pay you back." Levy said, "Well, we'll cross that bridge when we come to it." He just went ahead and staked him. He didn't it entirely on his idea of the man's character and reputation. He knew he was a good hard worker and he didn't worry one pickle ?

RUIZ: No, he knew that sooner or later there would be a recovery somewhere along the line. Well, the same thing happened with my father. I mentioned that he was my father's banker. And he staked my father many times too. But I wanted to tell you this story to reference to my father and his ability as a bean grower. There's one particular year, and I think it was in 1908 or 1909...I believe it was 1909...we had late rains and the ground was cold and damp and dad was working around and dad was working the ground and he was ? . Well, the other farmers had gone ahead and worked the ground and had planted. Dad refused to. He said, "The moon isn't right and the ground isn't right." It so happens...I talked to the old lady Salari who owned the land ? her daughter Alivera who was a very old friend of my father's, and incidentally, one of his dancing partners. Dad was a prize winner on the dance floor. He had three

numbers he did and he had separate or different partners. Well, Alivera was one of his girlfriends and his partner. So she came out to the ranch. She was her mother's overseer and she said...my father's initials were UP, were (SPANISH) and she said, "UP, you haven't planted yet." And my father said, "No, the conditions aren't right." ? "It's getting late in the year and you might get caught by the rain." Because in those days are seasons were pretty definite. They're not like they are now. We could have rain or snow any time of the year. But up there you could usually figure that along about the latter part of September or the first part of October, you were going to rained on. But if your beans were in field at that time, that was just too bad. They would have been perished in the ground. "Well," dad says, "I know but conditions aren't right. As soon as they turn right, then I'll plant." And says, "Then I'll feel sorry for you. If you caught it's going to be too bad." ? Well, a couple of weeks went by and the weather changed, it started to warm up. And dad had sent the man out with the teams and worked this piece of ground that way and this piece of ground that way and so forth. Conserving what energy or moisture he had. And all of a sudden one day he come in and said, "We're going to plant. As soon as the moon changes that's it. I'm going to

Ventura and get my brother." My brother Valentine had a terrific eye. He could plant a line of beans just as straight as an arrow. And in those days you'd see it. So he planted. But he didn't get through planting until almost the second week of June, which was nearly a month late. Usually you would have planted by the middle of May. He didn't get finished until almost the middle of June. But the ground was warm, it had warmed up and the moisture was right and those beans came up in three days...ordinarily it takes five. They were showing their little necks above the ground in three days and you could almost see those beans growing from day to day. You could see them how they grow and how they developed. And he had his beans thrashed in the warehouse on a bumper crop before the other farmers all ? That's how fast.

DODSON: That's amazing that he realized that.

RUIZ: That's how fast those beans developed. But you see, dad always planted by the growing moon. He believed in that religiously.

DODSON: And the others didn't pay attention to that?

RUIZ: No to them that didn't make any difference. A lot of hog wash, as far as they were concerned. But he proved that he was right and I'll never forget when the trashing machine...I think that...there's another story. I think that was the year that John Pettit thrashed for him. Or the Pettit family. You've heard of the Pettit family? Stanley and Mary Jane.

DODSON: Yes, I know them both well.

RUIZ: Well both of them are all classmates of mine from Van Nuys High School.

DODSON: Is that right? Yes, Lilly has met them too.

RUIZ: See, Mary Jane's folks owned the newspaper in Van Nuys to begin with.

DODSON: Keffer I think was the family name.

RUIZ: Yeah, her name is Keffer...Mary Jane Keffer. To get back to my story...dad raised a bumper crop that year and Alivera came to out to the trashing machine. And she was just amazed that the machine was in on our ground, on our ranch, before it was on anyone else's. When she got the returns of the product that was of the production...she said, "UP, I'm going to take my

hat off to you. We've got 190 acres, how would you like to farm for me?" And that's where dad broke his records. It was on the Wagner Ranch. Her name was Wagner. She had married a fellow by the name of Ed Wagner from Ventura, who ran a harness shop. So that was better than a garage in those days. Because everybody had horses and mules and the harness was a big deal at that time. So dad farmed her land and the last year that he farmed it was 1916 before we came to the valley. He took 6,200 stacks of beans off a 180 acres. This is a record that still stands in Ventura County.

DODSON: Is that right.

RUIZ: So it was just his knowledge of how to conserve moisture. Well, we had some ups and downs. We had rains that had rained on our beans one day...we had to turn the piles over...we had to move them to hot spots to dry them out. And we saved them...it was a lot of work, but we did it. So I saying something about A. Levy and his banking philosophy. Yes, it's true. He made more wealthy farmers in Ventura County than you could imagine.

DODSON: He must have been pretty well thought then.

RUIZ: Oh he was. He was very definitely thought of. I'll never forget. We went up to the funeral when he passed on. We got the word...we were living in the valley. That was in 1923, we had moved there to the house on the ranch in '23 or 1920 and we got the word that he had passed on. My dad broke down and he said, "What a good friend he was." So we went up to the funeral. And the cemetery where he is buried is in the little town of what was then the town of El Rio. It's three miles from the town of Oxnard. And the people were there at the cemetery. The hearse was at the cemetery and the last cars had not yet docked there.

DODSON: Is that right. It's certainly a tribute to that man.

RUIZ: That procession was nearly...was over three miles long. People from all over came to his funeral.

LILLY: (INAUDIBLE)

RUIZ: He was a tremendous man. He was born in Alisayas, Larraine. He was of Hebrew parentage ? said he was a French dude. He spoke with a little accent. And I think at home they may have spoken Jewish but I think they mainly spoke French. So this is one of the reasons why he had that little accent. And he was

always appeared to me as a very dynamic man. Bald headed, had a little moustache. Always smoked, had smoked cigars. And he'd chew on that cigar mole and then he'd say, "Alright, I'll make you a loan." He would make up his mind very quickly. It was either yes or no with A. Levy. Then of course, as you say, as you felt about this man that you know, he would always saw that somebody had helped in some way. Because he always figured...he was the kind of a man that figured that it didn't make any difference what you had, your tools, your livestock, your house, whatever you had...it all represented a value of some kind. And this was what he based his banking philosophy.

DODSON: Did he operate in the valley at all during his life time?

RUIZ: No, the Bank of A. Levy has remained in Ventura County all these years. With their head office in the town of Oxnard.

LILLY: (INAUDIBLE)

RUIZ: He has a branch bank but they are all in Ventura County. They never expanded beyond that. And here's another interesting thing that during the Depression

when we had our banking holiday. Three days with all the banks in the country were suppose to be closed, his never closed.

DODSON: Is that right? I thought that was a government order that they all had to.

RUIZ: Well, they closed the front door but the back door was open. No, they tell the story that during the Depression when people needed money, even the employees of the bank, would cash checks for people. His employees were all imbued to that philosophy. They cashed checks for people so that people could have money to live on. The people realized that this was something that was just fantastic. It was a matter of honor like it was in the old California days. There was no statute of limitations on debts among the old Spanish people. If you didn't pay your honest debts, you lost faith. It was part of their philosophy too. And this is how California was built in the beginning. You hear a lot of people say, "Well, these old Californians, they always put off til tomorrow what they should have done today." That's not true. They would never have built the missions and their ranches if they followed that line of thinking.

DODSON: I can imagine. You know I heard a story that the missions, in particular San Fernando Mission, use to have a box or a sack of coins beside a bed that this would occupy in case he needed some money that he could take some out of it when he left the next day, is that true?

RUIZ: Yes, a part of that is true. That happened in more than one case. And not necessarily at the missions either, but in some of the old homes. You could ride from San Francisco to San Diego and it wouldn't cost you a dime hardly. You could always stop somewhere, you were always welcome at their table. If you needed a fresh horse, you had it and sometimes even money. And a place to sleep at night. That was part of the courtesy in the old days. The old Spanish hospitality. Oh yes, that's true.

DODSON: What was the feeling when Mexico gained its independence from Spain here in California? Do you have any family traditions about the feelings of the old Californian people had?

RUIZ: Well, I don't know that you would exactly call them traditions, but I can tell you this...that the beginnings of California from 1769 to 1821 was all under Spanish rule. After 1821 they finally

consummated in 1822 when they finally fell off the yoke of Spain. The government here changed. Those of us that had settled here in California even to this day, consider ourselves as Spaniards although we actually were not all Spanish. There was Portuguese and Italians and French, and Basque and mixtures from the East and West Indies, they were all in here at that point. And even the soldiers that came with Port ? although they called him the Peppilunian? volunteers, they were not all people ? He was a peppilunian nobleman. But they were not all ?peppilunians. But those of us that had settled here in California and who had had you might say children born here, consider themselves as Spaniards.

DODSON: Well I had heard this story that one thing that facilitated the American conquest was that the old Californians really were more loyal to Spain and were not too happy about the Mexican Revolution.

RUIZ: Well that's partially true. That's true up to a point. You see what started the whole thing was that when Governor Ethambia? came here, he was the first Mexican governor of California under the Mexican rule. Well he started the secularization of the missions. But he didn't finish. Because he ran into too much opposition from the colonials that were

here. So it was not actually...the secularization was not actually consummated until around 1833 or '34 by Governor Figueroa.

DODSON: I think I associate the date 1834 with the secularization of San Fernando.

RUIZ: Well that's about when it was finally...that was final about that time. But it had been in the boiling pot, so to speak, all this time. The idea being was the vast grants of land that was given to the missions under the Spanish rule was suppose to revert to the Indians who then came here. As soon as the Indians were able to become self supporting then those lands...

RUIZ: This was the idea that the land was to revert to the Indians once they became self supporting and they figured that this was going to take about 10 years. Well, the Christianization and the education of the Indians didn't...millions didn't respond to it like they thought they would. And it took much longer. Well in the meantime, this had been going on 35, 40, 50 years. I don't know some 50 some odd years that the Spaniards were in control here. They just wanted to go by the book. Sure enough there were a few Spanish grants of land given but those grants came long after the first part of the colonization and Christianization began. But after Mexico took over, then they eventually took the lands away from the missions. Once they took the lands away from the missions, the Indians revolted. That is, not in any bloody wars of any kind...there had been some battles that were fought with them and Father Hyme was the martyr of California. It happened down at San Diego mission. But generally speaking, they had been subdued to the extent that they were no longer very war like. So they dropped away from the church and Mexico apparently wasn't too interested in supplying things up here. These people up here, they could take care of themselves as far as the Mexican

government was concerned. And of course, the Spaniards resented the idea of Mexico taking the lands of those two missions because actually their purpose hadn't been completed yet. Well of course so now that they took them away...they took all these lands away from the missions...well then the Rancho Valde, the colonists here, well actually they had to do something to make themselves self-supporting. Because of two things: an embargo that was placed on trade from the very beginning by both Spain and later by Mexico. You're not suppose to trade with any foreign ships or governments. With Mexico or with Spain. Well this slowed things down to a great extent. Because when you stop to realize those people came in here with little more than their bare hands and then what they do with hand tools is pretty difficult to understand why they stayed as long as they did. Many of them wanted to go back but here they were, already established...and once they got their ranches going with all of their livestock that they had, there was horses and bulls and cows and sheep and hogs and chickens and geese and so forth. They had their livestock, heaven sakes, what more did they want. They had their lands where they grew their vegetables and they lived an easy life so to speak. Cattle multiplied by themselves. The sheep multiplied by themselves. There was very little cash

on hand and their wealth was measured in natural products. And one of their great mediums of exchange was ?. We have...there were four Spanish shawls that were bought in Monterey. Traded for with ? There's three of them still in existence. One of them we don't know what happened to it. My Aunt Donatillo in Santa Barbara loaned her black shawl to somebody and it never came back. But there was Aunt Mary's shawl which was the blue shawl, they called it the shawl of the blue frost because the way that the flowers were designed on it, it formed the blue frost in the center of the shawl. It was very beautiful...we called it electric blue, the color of the flash of electricity. The art that was ? but unfortunately she loaned it to the Fiesta Committee of Santa Barbara and they put it in the display window with the sunlight coming through the glass and it faded it in certain spots. One side of it, it still has pretty much the beautiful blue that it had. The other two shawls and that blue shawl is in the hands of the Hixiba family who were descendants of my Uncle Joe's side of the family. But my cousin Louisa saw to it that my daughter Alice, her oldest daughter got the gold shawl and my sister Ruth, got the ? shawl. So we had two of the four shawls that were bought with ? in Monterey in the 1830.

DODSON: My those are certainly valuable...

RUIZ: They're priceless. And I have a shawl collection that once in awhile I put it on display. I have about 15-17 shawls that I've got together.

LILLY: Is there that many?

RUIZ: With all of it. Yeah, I had 13 of them in the chest there at one time. But I gave one to Jackie. I loaned Jackie that ? shawl. You see each one of these shawls that I have, that is several of the shawls have some little story attached to them. So for that reason, why I consider them quite valuable.

DODSON: I imagine our Museum of Art on Wilshire would be very glad to exhibit them.

RUIZ: Well, probably so. Well the shawl that Freda has, my sister gave it to her as a wedding present when Freda and I were married. I have another one in there that belonged to the same sister, which was known as the Bride Shawl. It was used in a picture by that name with Richard Barthlumus and Dorothy Gibbs, taken ? It had something to do with the Cuban Revolution. And it was used in the picture, Dorothy Gibbs wore it

and then it was also used in the old Lowes State Theater downtown advertising the picture.

DODSON: This is a beautiful shawl that you just brought in. Now when did this embroidery...

RUIZ: Now this embroidery is the same on both sides. You can hardly tell which is the right side except by the border of the fringe.

DODSON: What would be the date of this one?

RUIZ: Now this one I don't know how old this is. Well my sister got a hold of it somewhere. She was collecting them at one time and she since passed on. And when she passed on I came into the possession of the shawl. But this one she gave to Freda as a wedding present. It's a beautiful little thing.

(INAUDIBLE)

RUIZ: I have a large green shawl and then this bright shawl that I'm speaking of is huge. You could make a whole costume out of it. Well they call the Spanish shawls, they were practically all of them were made in China when China was the big silk trade where they had control of the silk industry. They were hand embroidered there and they were packed up in little boxes, about so square, and taken either to Spain or

to the Philippine Islands. Now these here in California were known as montoneios and manuedo? Although they were Spanish shawls. (SPANISH again) because a great many of them came through the Philippines which at that time was the Spanish possession. Then they put the fringe on there, either there or in Spain. But in China they had no fringe on them.

DODSON: So they went from China to the Philippines and then the Philippines back here.

RUIZ: Yep. That's why they got the name monteonis ? ? Any other questions?

DODSON: Well Lilly, do you have some? This has been a very delightful experience to me and we've learned so much. We always feel that every person that we interview gives us something that no one else has. I think you've given us a great deal that no one else has.

RUIZ: Well you know, here's another story. Quite a few years ago I was very well acquainted with the curator of the southwest...not southwest but the Los Angeles County Museum. We knew him as Arthur Woodward.

DODSON: No, I didn't know him. I met Denzel of the Southwest.

RUIZ: I knew Denzel too but I also knew Dr. ? and Mark Harrington. Mark Harrington and I were very close friends.

DODSON: Is that right. Well, his wife is still very prominent in the ?

RUIZ: Her maiden name is Welsh. She had been married many years before she ? I was Program Chairman at the Consulate Adobe for 27 consecutive years for this same ceremony, the lowering of the cross. Put that on the tape. And it was always followed of course by entertainment and what we called a fiesta. My troop danced up there and we always had a great time. A lot of fun. But I was telling about Woodward. Woodward said to me one time, and I was really talking about California history and I denied several statements that some other people had made and he said to me, "What makes you think you know more about California history than anybody else does?" And I said, "Well, I don't say that I know more than anybody else does but remember this, my people lived at ? that you read about in other people's books."

DODSON: That was a very good answer.

RUIZ: I made myself quite unpopular at the time and probably it's a hold over. I mean that's true.

DODSON: Well that's exactly why were here. And why we have visited other people. We're trying to record their impressions of the things they saw and knew about themselves. And often these are very hard to collect and hard to find in history books.

RUIZ: That's why I say the tables ? give you a lot more information than the library will get. I know this, that going to back to 1908, during Theodore Roosevelt's administration, he was quite navy minded. And they built what you call the Great White Fleet. You've probably heard of it. A ? of 21 vessels. They made a trip around the world. And stopped off in Santa Barbara. And my Aunt Mary she had two dance groups. One was the adults and they also had a children's group. And the children's group performed the old California dances at the old Potter Hotel that use to be on west street. It was part of the entertainment for Captain or Rear Admiral Fighting Bob Evans and his officers of the Atlantic fleet at that time. And I was there, a little boy, and I saw the program and I made up my mind that I was going to

learn more dances and I did. And I have the music for them, I have the costumes. I have the whole kitten ka boddle. I've even collaborated with authors from Universal California. Edward Campbell is one and Lucille Zarnoski was the other. She published some this stuff in my book and her book. She read it of course and paid me for it, my collaboration. And I collaborated with some of the teachers at UCLA on some of their 4th grade history as to ranch life and how a coral fence was made and how they used rawhide, the various uses of rawhide. All that sort of thing.

DODSON: Well all that is extremely interesting and extremely valuable to the future. To have that put on record.

RUIZ: Well these things I knew about so I learned the dances and I danced for them in the fiestas in Santa Barbara. The old Spanish ? And then in 1925 they had what they call the Diamond Jubilee in San Francisco. It was the 75th anniversary of state ? and the 50th anniversary of the Native Sons of the Golden West, which I belonged to and acted in at that time, I still are, I mean I belonged to the ? Verdugo Choir. I went to San Francisco. And I rode in the parade up there and one of the dancers...Aunt Mary's troop went to San Francisco representing Santa

Barbara. And they danced ? the Mark Hopkins and the Fairmount, the big hotels, points and places of entertainment up there and they were received. There were great elations because the people up there have never seen anything like that. Here was California. That's why I say Santa Barbara is actually the basis of cultural heritage in California. And I'll tell you the reason for that. One of her dancers insisted on getting high every so often and he wasn't able to show up for performances so I took his place. And he never forgave me for that. So anyhow I was there...I had my costume that Aunt Mary had made for me and so I was all prepared and ready to go. I'd known the dances I'd danced with them in Santa Barbara. Although, I didn't always go up there because sometimes living down here, it was a long trip and sometimes I wasn't able to go. But anyhow I knew them. So this was in 1925 in September the 9th. The parade they had on the 9th of September up there took six and a half hours to pass any one given point. It was that big. Jimmy Rolph who was mayor of the city at the time and we had difficulty with the Los Angeles Contingent down here, getting the band to go relieve us. George Pryor was Mayor of the City of Los Angeles at that time and he wouldn't see to sending the Fireman's Band representing the City of Los Angeles to San Francisco at city costs. No, he

wouldn't do it. Well, Jimmy Rolph was a pretty clever politician. So Earl Bill Tregger, who was the past Grand President of the Native Sons, he wrote a letter to Jimmy Rolph telling him that we were having this difficulty and we didn't know what we were going to do for a band. We were casting around and thought maybe we could get one up there. Well they had all there musicians up there tied up. See San Francisco was a strong union town. And they paid their musicians to play in the band in that parade. They divided them up into members of about 26 to 30 pieces. They had bands every so often in the parade and you never were without music in that entire parade. It was beautifully organized. Anyhow, he wrote this letter to Jimmy Rolph and Jimmy says, "Well, I'll think of something." And sure enough, he comes up with a deal. He invites Mayor Pryor officially to San Francisco for some pre fiesta doings and got him out of the City of Los Angeles so that Boyle Workman, who was Chairman of the City Council at that time and a very strong Native Son became the Active Mayor of Los Angeles and he signed the order for them to go. That guy never got over it. Jimmy Rolph put one over on him.

DODSON: That was a clever move.

RUIZ: It was, it really was. And we were always amused about that and of course, poor old George, he was really burned up about it. But of course Jimmy Rolph went on to be Governor of the State of California. There's another thing about Jimmy Rolph. That was during prohibition you know. And here was people, you might say, millions of people coming into the city of San Francisco. We had to have something there to entertain them. I don't know where it came from, but there was two boats out in San Francisco Bay that were loaded with liquor. And Rolph knew about it. And he called in the federal officers and he said, "Look you guys, lay off, will you? We're having a fiesta here. We're having thousands, if not millions of people coming in here. We've got to have something to entertain them with. Now you guys lay off." San Francisco was wide open. You could go anywhere and get served something in the way of alcoholic beverages. Aw, I tell you he was a ?, that Jimmy Rolph but an awful good man. So those are some of the things that I can remember of those days. Well, after that so over I came back to Los Angeles and said, "Well they haven't got a dance troop down here, I'm going to start one." So in October of 1925 I started my Ruby's California Dance Troop. And I still to this day, have some of my original members of that.

DODSON: Is that right?

RUIZ: After all these years.

DODSON: The troop has carried on then. Is that right?

RUIZ: Yep. And this is another interesting thing about the troop. We started in as dancing partners and later on became partners in life. Because many of my couples got married.

DODSON: Is that so.

RUIZ: Ray Sepulveda and Claudina Avilla was one of my originals. I've got pictures of them. And then started in as a dance couple. Clarence and Juanita Avilla, Claudina's sister, started in as a dance couple. Richie Sepulveda, Marie la Bruin and my former wife Mildred and myself. Oh let's see, were there any more? There was several of us. The dancing partners in my troop later on they became partners in life. Oh yeah, Frank and Anita Sunvil is another one. So there's been romance in the troop.

DODSON: Well that's good.

RUIZ: And there are a few of us still alive. Both of the Sepulveda boys are gone. ? is gone. ? has passed on in the meantime but there's several of us that are still here. And we still get together and have our little parties. We have a ? But this is what I'm involved in now with the California Allegro Foundation is to put these dances on a film. I have done quite a few, a bunch of test shots ? 16mm and Super 8 and I'm going with the Super 8 because there's less problem. See you got the cameras now that put the sound right on the film, yes. They've got the soundtrack. And they've developed the Super 8 film now so that it's close, I would say it's just as good as the 16mm and you don't have to photograph separately and make a separate soundtrack and go through all of the printing and everything. I had that experience while I was in the motion picture industry.

(INAUDIBLE)

RUIZ: Well, let's see, I'm trying to think of that...? nothing that I know of that we're going to do in the very near future. It's only that I'm waiting for the weather to clear up and ? again ? because most of my dances I have to do ? dancing. But there's a lot of experience that can be shot but we also have to wait for good weather.

DODSON: That's giving me an idea. Maybe you would be interested in attending one of the meetings of our little historical society. Our Museum Historical Society. If you could tell them about these dances and show some of your pictures.

RUIZ: Where is this?

DODSON: It's at Valley College. At Fulton and Burbank in Van Nuys.

RUIZ: Incidentally, do you know Tom ? ?

DODSON: I've never met him.

RUIZ: Have you met their musical teacher out there. Their music teacher, Anthony Palmer. Dr. Palmer?

DODSON: We have so many...we have such a large faculty now. Many of them I don't know personally.

RUIZ: Well I want to get in touch with Anthony anyhow because while he was at Alhambra High School he recorded the music and the songs for Las Cresantos? with the Alhambra Choir. He was there for it at that time. Since then he had gotten his ? at music and he is now at the college here. And he called me just,

oh a couple of weeks ago, and he wants to do the tapes over again because he wasn't happy with the results of them. I have used them several times in several of our performances. They're quite good I would say but Anthony happens to be a perfectionist and he wants to...

DODSON: Well you have to be absolutely perfect.

RUIZ: He wants them right on the nose, so to speak.

DODSON: Well we're not such ?

RUIZ: Well, being the musician that he is...I mean and interested in that sort of thing, he wants it as good as he can get it. And of course I mean appreciate his view point because I am too more or less a perfectionist in some ways too.

DODSON: Would you be interested in bringing them over for a meeting of our group.

RUIZ: Yes I would.

DODSON: Our next meeting that we don't have anything arranged for, would be the first Monday in May.

RUIZ: First Monday in May. Where are we going? Well sometimes we do. Well, wait a minute darling, I've already a commitment to put on the La Honda La Cruz for the first Sunday of May. We will be here.

DODSON: You'll be here on the first Sunday. Well, we may have a guilty conscious for keeping you from leaving on the first Monday.

RUIZ: No, you see we try to spend as much time as we can at our summer home in the high Sierras. We have a little cabin up there on the lower, between the lake on the Bridgeport and Freddy is chance ? to get going and get back up there.

(DISCUSSION ABOUT DATES)

DODSON: Well fine, then I'll be in touch with you a little then to find out if you...

RUIZ: Do you have my phone number.

DODSON: Yes. Well we certainly are glad to have been allowed to come, Mr. Ruiz. We have thoroughly enjoyed this and we think the information you've given us will be very valuable. As I told you, you've given us things that we haven't received from any other source and we are delighted to have them and we certainly would be

happy to have you appear before our museum association.

You have been listening to an interview with Mr. Gabriel Ruiz of 1527 North Christian Avenue, Hollywood, CA. The interview was conducted by Dr. James L. Dodson, Curator of the Los Angeles Valley College Historical Museum and by Miss Lilly Armita Ferretti, Deputy to Dr. Dodson. The date is Wesnesday, January 25, 1978.

Transcribed by Blue Ribbon Secretarial